

September 9, 2004

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or
Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**CDOT – Highway 299 Culvert Repair for the Pigeon Point Safety Improvement Project
(WDID No. 1A04108WNTR)**

Trinity County

On August 2, 2004, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Chris Cummings on behalf of California Department of Transportation (hereinafter applicant), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) to repair a culvert on a small seasonal drainage under Highway 299 and tributary to the Trinity River at Post Mile 36.19 near Helena. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Trinity River in the Burnt Ranch Hydrologic Subarea No.106.13.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety on a section of Highway 299 by increasing the radius of a curve, improving the super elevation and vertical profile of the roadway, widening the roadway to provide four-foot wide shoulders, and rehabilitation of the drainage system. The portion of this project that is within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's jurisdiction is limited to repairs to the deteriorated invert of a 72-inch diameter and 66-foot long culvert. The deteriorated invert is currently lined with steel rails to prevent damage from the rock bed load. The proposed rehabilitation work involves removing the steel rails and corroded portions of the invert. Rebar will be welded to the remaining culvert lining and approximately 4.5 cubic yards of concrete will be pumped into the culvert invert to form a new layer of protection and to fill any voids in the invert. Temporary fencing will be installed upstream of the culvert inlet to prevent damage to riparian vegetation. If water is present, the flow will be diverted into a flexible pipe routed through the existing culvert. The culvert repair project is expected to take approximately 5 days to complete.

The installation of temporary sand bags and piping for the purpose of dewatering the work area will temporarily impact less than 0.01 acre of jurisdictional Waters of the State, including wetland and river channel. The concrete and/or steel added to the culvert invert will permanently impact less than 0.01 acre of jurisdictional Waters of the State, including wetland and river channel. Permanent impacts will only be made to the invert of the existing culvert.

The culvert outlets onto a steep bank above the Trinity River. Anadromous fish are present in Trinity River; however, there are no fish in the affected drainage. NOAA Fisheries issued a letter concurring with the applicants assessment that the Pigeon Point Safety Improvement Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect Federally threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon or their habitat. No other sensitive species will be affected by the project. No work will occur within the channel of the Trinity River.

The applicants have applied for authorization to perform the proposed project under Nationwide Permits Nos. 23 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. The California Department of Transportation, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project will have no significant effect on the environment and is categorically exempt from CEQA (Class 1). The

applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1601 Permit) from California Department of Fish and Game.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Regional Water Board staff member Dean Prat by phone at (707) 576-2801, or e-mail pratd@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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